

# Vigo County Health Department

## 2023 Annual Report



**The Vigo County Health Department  
serves to promote, protect and provide  
for the well-being of the citizens in Vigo County**

## **FOREWORD**

The Vigo County Health Department is pleased to present our annual report of activities and accomplishments for the year 2023. The annual report allows us an opportunity to highlight the efforts of the Vigo County Health Department, which protects, promotes and enhances health in our community. The year 2023 was one of many achievements and significant changes.

Today we enjoy better health, live in healthier conditions, know more about how to take care of our health, and live longer than any time in the past. Largely these trends are the result of public health efforts such as improved sanitation, food establishment inspections, control of communicable diseases, immunizations, health education, and the list continues. We want to be at the forefront in community by promoting the principle that good health should be the right for all people, not a privilege. The practice of public health is vital to our individual and collective well-being. We are continuously looking for better ways to serve our community and improve the quality of life. Public health works, and we are living proof!

Dynamics are evolving in Vigo County that can provide our community with the ability for growth and change. Health First Indiana is a state investment in local public health providing enhanced funding to counties. Senate Enrolled Act 4, legislation passed by the 2023 Indiana General Assembly, provides Health First funding starting 2024 so counties can determine the health needs of their communities and implement evidence-based programs focused on prevention. The funding is to provide core public health services, including trauma and injury prevention, chronic disease prevention, maternal and child health and more.

One of our many goals is to build a stronger and more effective department to meet the public health needs of Vigo County. Your health department is here to serve the public, and we need your input to do so effectively. Please look through the 2023 Vigo County Health Department Annual Report and feel secure that we are working for you.

## VIGO COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH

What is a Board of Health? Boards of health are local public health systems, charged to address health promotion, disease prevention, and public protection. They provide the necessary guidance and oversight of a local health department to assure the community's health. Boards of health are a powerful part of a local public health system. In Indiana, boards set policies, hire and fire the health officer, review operational data and challenge any organizational activity when necessary. Boards also have financial oversight of the local health department. All seven members of the Vigo County Board of Health are currently appointed by the Vigo County Commissioners, with no more than three from the same political party.

### 2023 BOARD OF HEALTH

James McKanna, Chair  
Dr. Amber Cadick, PhD, Vice-Chair  
Jeff Depasse  
Dr. James Turner, D.O.

Dr. Custodio Lim M.D.  
Dr. Brian Ross, O.D.  
Dr. Jennifer Todd, PhD

## 10 ESSENTIAL PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES

Everyone should have a fair and just opportunity to achieve good health and well-being.

The strength of a public health system rests on its capacity to:

1. **Assess and monitor** population health.
2. **Investigate, diagnose and address** health hazards and root causes.
3. **Communicate effectively** to inform and educate.
4. **Strengthen, support and mobilize** communities and partnerships.
5. **Create, champion and implement** policies, plans and laws.
6. **Utilize legal and regulatory actions.**
7. **Enable equitable access.**
8. **Build a diverse and skilled** workforce.
9. **Improve and innovate** through evaluation, research and quality improvement.
10. **Build and maintain** a strong organizational infrastructure for public health.

To achieve optimal health for all, the Essential Public Health Services actively promote policies, systems and services that enable good health and seek to remove obstacles and systemic and structural barriers — such as poverty, racism, gender discrimination, and other forms of oppression — that have resulted in health inequalities.

# **VIGO COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT**

**Darren Brucken, M.D., Health Commissioner**

## **Administration**

Joni Wise, Administrator  
Amanda Bales, Deputy Administrator  
Robbin Welker-Poore, Bookkeeper  
Tiffany Kerr, Purchasing Clerk

## **Environmental Health Division**

Amanda Bales, Supervisor  
Steve Thompson, Environmental Health Specialist  
Amanda Shook, Environmental Health Specialist  
Shelley Rubinacci, Environmental Health Specialist  
Cheryl Lehman, Environmental Health Specialist,  
Anna Bunch, Environmental Health Specialist  
Andrew Martin, Environmental Health Specialist  
Katie Mundy, Childhood Lead Case Manager

## **Health Education/Media Coordination**

Shelby Jackson

## **Vector Control Division**

Mike Grayless, Supervisor  
Tony Grayless, Assistant Supervisor  
Warren Sweitzer, Assistant  
David Higgins, Assistant  
Logan Edwards, Assistant  
Dalton Higgins, Assistant  
Kim Edwards, Secretary

## **Vital Statistics Division**

Loretta Nicoson, Supervisor  
Brooke Foltz, Registrar  
Brandie Latham, Registrar  
Maddie Lindsey, Registrar

## **Nursing Division**

Catherine Brown, M.D., Pediatrician  
Chelsea Willis, MSN, RN, Director  
Jane Keyes PT RN, Staff Nurse  
Libby O’Pell PT RN, Staff Nurse  
Robin Maurer, Administrative Assistant  
Dolly Moss, Immunization Registry Clerk  
Teresa Bechtel, Insurance Billing Clerk

## **Social Services Division**

Molly Isles, Supervisor  
Shonna Frye, Peer Recovery Coach  
Larry Aynes, Peer Recovery Coach

## FINANCIAL REPORT 2023

Cash Balance <b>General Health</b> January 1, 2023	\$ 1,269,410.75
Receipts January 1 – December 31, 2023	\$ 2,172,482.24
<b>Expenditures January 1 – December 31, 2023</b>	<b>\$ 2,918,567.16</b>
Cash Balance in General Health – December 31, 2023	\$ 2,608,284.43
Cash Balance <b>Health Donation</b> January 1, 2023	\$ 12,988.77
Receipts January 1 – December 31, 2023	\$ 1,041.30
<b>Expenditures January 1 – December 31, 2023</b>	<b>\$ 1,073.92</b>
Balance in Health Donation – December 31, 2023	\$ 12,972.46
Cash Balance <b>Health Maintenance</b> – January 1, 2023	\$ 105,610.61
Receipts January 1 – December 31, 2023	\$ 36,336.00
<b>Expenditures January 1 – December 31, 2023</b>	<b>\$ 62,652.86</b>
Cash Balance December 31, 2023	\$ 115,629.75
Cash Balance <b>Health Trust</b> January 1, 2023	\$ 54,996.87
Receipts January 1 – December 31, 2023	\$ 21,269.79
<b>Expenditures January 1 – December 31, 2023</b>	<b>\$ 38,898.54</b>
Cash Balance – December 31, 2023	\$ 58,637.90
Cash Balance <b>Health Immunization Grant</b> January 1, 2023	\$ 7,776.77
Receipts January 1 – June 30, 2023	\$ 30,695.31
<b>Expenditures January 1 – June 30, 2023</b>	<b>\$ 21,449.86</b>
Balance as of June 30, 2023	\$ 1,468.68
Cash Balance <b>Non-Reverting</b> January 1, 2023	\$ 8,870.76
Receipts January 1 – December 31, 2023	\$ 16,630.41
<b>Expenditures January 1 – December 31, 2023</b>	<b>\$ 8,622.51</b>
Balance as of December 31, 2023	\$ 16,878.66
Cash Balance <b>Health Care's Act</b> January 1, 2023	\$ 124,027.12
Receipts January 1- December 31, 2023	\$ 0.00
<b>Expenditures January 1 – December 31, 2023</b>	<b>\$ 121,108.55</b>
Balance as of December 31, 2023	\$ 2,918.57
Cash Balance <b>Coroner's Fund</b> January 1, 2023	\$ 2,079.00
Receipts January 1 – December 31, 2023	\$ 23,992.25
<b>Expenditures January 1 – December 31, 2023</b>	<b>\$ 22,748.75</b>
Cash Balance of December 31, 2023	\$ 3,322.50

## **PUBLIC HEALTH IN VIGO COUNTY**



Dr. Darren Brucken  
Health Officer



Joni Wise  
Administrator



Bookkeeper Robbin Poore and Purchasing Clerk  
Tiffany Kerr manage the finances and purchases  
for over \$2,000,000 in budgeted funds.

## HEALTH FIRST INDIANA



The Indiana Department of Health (IDOH) announced in January 2024 that local health departments had received enhanced funding for the first time as part of the Health First Indiana (HFI) initiative.

Health First Indiana seeks to improve the state's standing in health outcomes. Currently, Indiana is 40 in the overall public health ranking in the United States.

HFI is a historic investment in public health made possible by legislation passed in 2023, with 86 counties -- serving nearly 96% of Hoosiers -- opting to receive \$75 million in funding.

The funding seeks to tackle Indiana's chronically poor health rankings at the local level, providing counties with data on their health issues and giving health departments resources to address their most pressing local needs, in partnership with local elected officials, hospitals, clinics and schools. An additional \$150 million will be distributed next year.

About 78% of the funding will support preventive and health outcome-related activities. A key component of HFI is that local health departments determine how the funding is spent, as they know best how to improve the health of Hoosiers living in their communities, according to IDOH.

Utilizing Health First Indiana funding, the Vigo County Health Department was able to launch a new division, VCHD Social Services Division, with Molly Isles as the Supervisor. The department also collaborated with the Vigo County Parks & Recreation Department, the Vigo County Courts and Public Defenders, Vigo County School Corporation, Chances and Services for Youth, Indiana First Tee and Liberty Tire to address the Key Performance Indicators established by the state legislature.

The Vigo County Commissioner's opted in to accept the funding to improve the health of our community.

**2024 HFI Funding for Vigo County: \$1,280,958.50**

**2025 HFI Funding for Vigo County: \$ 2,475,660.71**



The Indiana State Health Commissioner, Dr. Lindsay Weaver, visited Vigo County in September as part of her 92 county tour to help facilitate a discussion around Health First Indiana. We invited our community partners, such as commissioners, council members, health board members, and any other stakeholders that are integral to the work of the health department. The IDOH extended an invite to our state legislators, also.

THOSE IN ATTENDANCE:

- |                          |  |
|--------------------------|--|
| 1. DR. DARREN BRUCKEN    | VIGO COUNTY (VC) HEALTH OFFICER        |
| 2. JONI WISE             | VC HEALTH DEPARTMENT ADMINISTRATOR     |
| 3. AMANDA PULLER         | VCHD DEPUTY ADMINISTRATOR              |
| 4. SHELBY JACKSON        | VCHD HEALTH EDUCATOR                   |
| 5. MARC KIELMAN          | VC BOARD OF HEALTH                     |
| 6. DR. JIM TURNER        | VC BOARD OF HEALTH                     |
| 7. MIKE MORRIS           | VC COMMISSIONER: PRESIDENT             |
| 8. MARK CLINKENBEARD     | VC COMMISSIONER                        |
| 9. CHRIS SWITZER         | VC COMMISSIONER                        |
| 10. MARIE THIEZ          | VC COUNCIL                             |
| 11. ADAM GROSSMAN        | VC PARKS AND RECREATION SUPERINTENDANT |
| 12. STEVE HOLMAN         | UNION HOSPITAL CEO                     |
| 13. MARK CASANOVA        | REGIONAL HOSPITAL CEO                  |
| 14. DR. CHRIS HIMSEL     | VC SCHOOL CORPORATION SUPERINTENDANT   |
| 15. HICHAM RAHMOUNI      | LUGAR CENTER FOR RURAL HEALTH DIRECTOR |
| 16. CHARLIE WELKER       | WABASH VALLEY HEALTH CENTER (FQHC)     |
| 17. SARAH KEARNS         | WABASH VALLEY HEALTH CENTER (FQHC)     |
| 18. LORI MOON            | VALLEY PROFESSIONALS (FQHC)            |
| 19. JOSH ALSIP           | TERRE HAUTE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE        |
| 20. DR. CAROLINE MALLORY | ISU HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES DEAN       |
| 21. JANE SANTUCCI        | RIVERSCAPES                            |



22. BRANDON HALLECK
23. RACHEL REED
24. DR. MIKE HARDING
25. DR. PAM MALONE
26. DELANEY KENDALL
27. JOHN NEWTON
28. PAM PONTONES
29. TONYA PFAFF
30. BOB HEATON
31. MIKE SUTTON
32. DAPHNE SESSION

- CHANCES AND SERVICES FOR YOUTH
- MENTAL HEALTH AMERICA
- FRIENDS OF REA PARK: 1st TEE YOUTH GOLF
- IVY TECH, TERRE HAUTE
- HAMILTON CENTER BEHAVIORAL HEALTH
- VP ISU FOUNDATION/COMMUNITY VOLUNTEER
- DEPUTY STATE HEALTH COMMISSIONER
- INDIANA HOUSE DISTRICT 43
- INDIANA HOUSE DISTRICT 46
- REGIONAL PUBLIC ADMINISTRATOR IDOH
- HAMILTON CENTER FQHC



“It was really important for me and for my team to get out to talk to all of you because we are really excited about the opportunities and the future of health in the state of Indiana, and we also know and recognize that if we’re going to get better and it’s going to get done, it’s going to come from the local level,” Dr. Weaver said to the dozens of community leaders invited to the informal discussion at the Vigo County Annex. “So we’ve actually flipped our entire agency on its head.” She said they have turned to become what they are describing as the customer service arm of public health in Indiana. “We know that our health departments are the ones that are out getting it done, so we’re doing everything that we can to support the way the work is happening,” she said. That includes the HFI funding. “It was very intentional that counties have the ability to opt-in to this funding, that it wasn’t an automatic thing, and that the counties have the ability to decide how it is you all want to utilize that funding,” Weaver said. “You have to do the four public health services, that’s part of the statute. That’s what public health does anyway ... addressing maternal and child health, trauma and injury prevention, chronic disease including obesity prevention, but how you do it and how much funding you put toward those different areas is completely up to you here locally.”

## **HEALTH EDUCATION & MEDIA COORDINATION**

Health education is the process of aiding individuals and groups to make informed decisions as well as build skills pertaining to community, family and personal health. Having a position for health education provides an outlet for the citizens of Vigo County on health information, awareness and means of prevention. The education used is based on statistical data that is gathered either from the local, state or national level. Educators shall utilize the following outlets to provide education:

### **Community Coalitions**

**Programming**

**Health Fairs**

### **Presentations**

**Social and Traditional  
Media**

## **PRESENTATIONS**

Offer comprehensive approaches to current public health issues that are of concern. Some presentations are multi-faceted, such as an overview of the Vigo County Health Department and the role it has in public health throughout the county and surrounding Wabash Valley community. Other presentations can be an in-depth look into direct issues such as disease transmission through vectors, bacterial and viral levels or drug and alcohol use. The involvement offers the public the opportunity to learn about their health and wellbeing, ask questions and becoming familiar with the staff and services provided at the Vigo County Health Department. This familiarity between the public and local governmental agency aids in building trust between the entities, thus encouraging the public to be receptive of public health. The goal is to collaboratively work with many community partners with include but are certainly not limited to: Vigo County School Corporation, Indiana State University, Hamilton Center, Purdue Extension and Lugar Center for Health Education.

The following is a brief list of programs and presentations conducted by the Vigo County Health Department with different community organizations:

- Historic Walnut Square – Enrichment Program
- Presentations for local Kiwanis Club
- County Employee CPR Programs
- Harm Reduction Discussions



Hicham Rahmouni, Shelby Jackson, and Joni Wise presented for Public Health Day at the Indiana Statehouse.

## COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

Health education and media coordination works thoughtfully with a multitude of Vigo County members in order to provide fast, reliable and educational information to all citizens.

- Tobacco Prevention Cessation Coalition
- Indiana Environmental Health Association
- Terre Haute Chamber of Commerce
- Vigo County Jail and Juvenile

- Vigo County Parks and Recreation Department
- Chances and Services for Youth
- National Association of County and City Health Officials
- Drug Free Vigo County

## HEALTH FAIRS

To be involved with and organize health fairs is a great way to promote health awareness and encourage participants to take responsibility for their health. These opportunities can also provide valuable health information in order to make informed decisions. Additionally, health fairs allow health department employees the opportunity to meet with the public and discuss their specific health concerns in locations that are most convenient and easily accessible. Public health is more influential when we meet people where they are.

The following consist of some, but not all health fairs that the Vigo County Health Department has been affiliated with:

- We Live Back-to-School-Bash with Hamilton Center
- Back to School Vaccine Clinic(s)
- Booker T. Washington Family Resource Night



***"We are only as healthy as our most vulnerable."***

## **MEDIA PARTNERSHIPS**

Working alongside the media is a crucial component of Health Education. In order to ensure the residents of Vigo County receive the most accurate and up to date health information, the Vigo County Health Department has maintained an excellent relation with the surrounding media companies. Local media companies that are utilized are news channels, newspapers and radio stations. The Health Educator/Media Coordinator works diligently across multiple media outlets to compose important health messages in order to promote, provide and protect the citizens of Vigo County. The following topics were some that were covered:



- Vigo County Tire Amnesty
- Tick Population and Safety Precautions
- Bicycle Safety and Dog Bite Reporting
- Applesauce Lead Contamination Recall
- Indiana Measles Case, First in Years
- Board of Health Meetings
- Clinic Services and Hours of Operation

## **SOCIAL MEDIA**

An ever-evolving, key piece of Health Education is a presence within social media. With the growing rate of digital health, the usage of social media is crucial when aiming to reach the majority of the population, or certain demographics depending on which software is being utilized. The quick timing that social media provides works well with health emergencies such as an outbreak or public service announcements. When 'I' becomes 'we' even illness becomes wellness. One of the six principles of effective emergency and risk communication is to be first. Crises are time-sensitive and quick communication is crucial. The following are actions and goals pertaining to health information being dispersed through social media:

1. Maintain a high level of interaction across sites.
2. Increase the amount of community members reached through various strategies.
3. Work with other community organizations to spread information throughout the county.

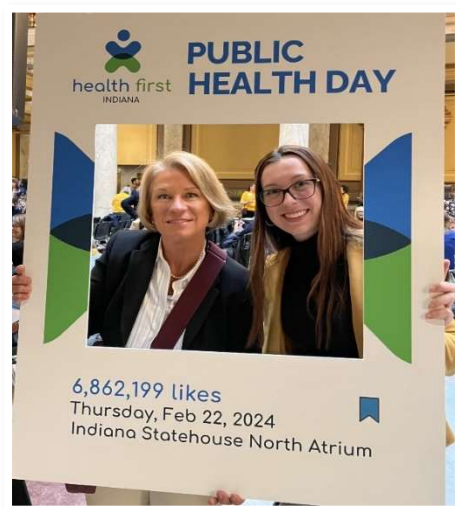


Follow along with us at  
[@vigocountyhealthdepartment](https://www.instagram.com/vigocountyhealthdepartment)

## PASSIVE ENGAGEMENT

When it comes to health and wellness, often times the best strategies are those that are passive throughout the day. Gentle reminders pertaining to health depending on the season or specific month. Within the Vigo County Government Annex, a few strategies have been implemented to increase health awareness and knowledge. These strategies consist of health education boards, employee quarterly challenges and 'Installments'. Below is a brief list of some passive engagement:

- Health Education Boards: Munch Madness (Nutrition with March Madness), Lead Awareness, Mushroom and Tick Safety, Mental Health Matters, Pop Away Stress, Water Safety, Is Your Health Up to Par?, Don't Fall Behind, Don't Drop the Ball on Your Health
- 'Installments': Stroke and Heart Attack Symptoms, Radon Awareness Week, New Year, New You, High Blood Pressure for the Holidays is Not the Perfect Gift, Toy and Gift Safety, Bladder Health Month, Don't be Tricked lead Poisoning is No Treat, Silent Hand Signal for Help, Suicide Prevention and Resources, Gut



Joni Wise, Administrator & Shelby Jackson, Health Educator at  
2024 Public Health Day

# ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH



Front row left to right: Anna Bunch, Mandy Shook-Baker and Andrew Martin  
Back row left to right: Mandy Puller, Cheryl Lehman, Steve Thompson and Shelley Rubinacci

Environmental Health Division protects public health and the environment by ensuring conformance with State laws and County ordinances pertaining to a wide variety of environmental health programs. Much of this work is accomplished by performing routine inspections and investigations and taking enforcement action when warranted. The Environmental Health Division also interacts with various federal, state, regional, and local governmental agencies associated with environmental health programs.



## FOOD SAFETY



Violation at local Retail Food Establishment



Food contaminated by fire at Wal-Mart

The Food Safety Program involves the planning of new and remodeled retail food establishments, planning of fairs and festivals in Vigo County, and the licensing and inspecting of all retail food establishments within Vigo County. We work closely with the state department of health on any food recalls and food borne illnesses.

By promoting food safety education and fostering understanding, communication, and cooperation among regulators, industry and consumers, VCHD seeks to provide the best public health and consumer protection in an expeditious and cost-effective manner.

### Permits Issued

- 661 Retail food establishments
- 188 Temporary
- 89 Mobile Units
- 20 Farmer's Market

### Inspections Conducted:

- 1131 routine inspections
- 32 follow-up inspections
- 90 plan reviews
- 90 opening inspections
- 174 temporary inspections

### 4 STEPS TO FOOD SAFETY



## ON-SITE SEWAGE



ATL Sand Bed System



Gravel Less Pipe System

An on-site system is one which treats the sewage in a septic tank so that most of the sewage becomes effluent and is disposed of in an area close to the house or buildings. An example of an on-site disposal system consists of a septic tank and leach drains.

The planning, installation, and repair of on-site sewage disposal systems must be reviewed and inspected by one of our full-time environmental health specialist. This includes the reviewing of soil scientist reports, drawing of installed systems for department records, and giving recommendations for proposed subdivisions.

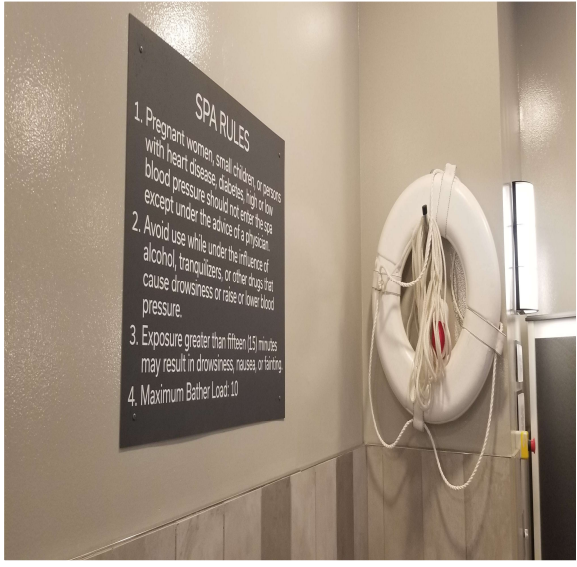
### A total of:

- 57 On-Site Sewage Permits issued
- 39 Replacement On-Site Sewage Permits issued
- 58 Subdivisions
- 340 Improvement Location Permits
- 76 On-Site Sewage Requirements dispersed
- 53 On-site Sewage inquiries





## RECREATIONAL WATER



Waters used for recreational purposes are subject to a variety of environmental influences, which can affect the health, and/or safety of individuals using those waters. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reports that the number of reported recreational water illness outbreaks from 1978-2012 has increased significantly. The outbreaks are associated with treated recreational water such as hot tubs, pools and spas.

Recreational water program includes the inspection and review of bacteriological reports of swimming and wading pools, spas, therapy pools, and public access beaches. The inspection entails an evaluation of the pool area, water quality, safety equipment, and mechanical room.

The goals of these programs are to minimize safety hazards, reduce the potential for disease transmission and assure that waters used for recreational purposes are operated and maintained in compliance with the applicable ordinances.

- 142 Regular inspections performed
- 34 Follow-up inspection
- 23 Closings
- 40 Permitted pools and spa



## BODY ART



The use of improperly sanitized needles and instruments for invasive procedures on the human body and/or procedures completed by inadequately trained individuals can contribute to the spread of communicable diseases and/or cause permanent injury.

Through the Body Art Safety program the Environmental Health Specialist works to ensure the safe and proper operation of the licensed body art establishments in Vigo County. We educate operators, evaluate plan reviews, and perform opening inspections on new or remodeled body art establishments. We also ensure general safety and sanitation standards, and proper disposal methods of infectious waste.

The Artist licensing program ensures the individuals that are performing the body art are knowledgeable and competent.

- 19 Body Art establishments licensed
- 24 Routine inspections
- 5 Body Art establishment Openings
- 10 Artist License
- 1 Temporary Artist License



## LEAD POISONING PREVENTION



Pictures of a lead contaminated homes on caseload

Structures built prior to 1978, are likely to have lead based paint. However, the federal government banned consumer use of lead based paint in 1978. Lead found in dust, paint and soil in and around your home could be dangerous if not maintained properly. According to the Environmental Protection Agency, lead based paint can be found in:

- 24% of homes built from 1960-1978
- 69% of homes built from 1940-1959
- 87% of homes built before 1940

If the paint is in good condition and has been painted over, it usually doesn't pose a problem. If the paint is peeling or has been disturbed by scraping, sanding, or burning, it can pose significant health risks to people especially children 6 and under.

As of July 1, 2022 the State of Indiana mandated that all local health departments follow children with elevated blood lead levels of 5  $\mu\text{g}$  or more and to provide parent education and blood testing of children with elevated blood lead levels of 5  $\mu\text{g}/\text{dL}$  or more. This includes educating the parents and conducting a risk assessment of the home.



Amanda Baker Environmental Health Specialist taking a soil sample for lead

We have three licensed Risk Assessors that address the lead risks in the homes of the children that have elevated blood lead levels. The Risk Assessors educate the families on proper cleaning procedures and mitigation choices when lead risks are identified. Additionally a Public Health Nurse follows that child until their blood lead levels drop below the mandated 5  $\mu\text{g}$  level.

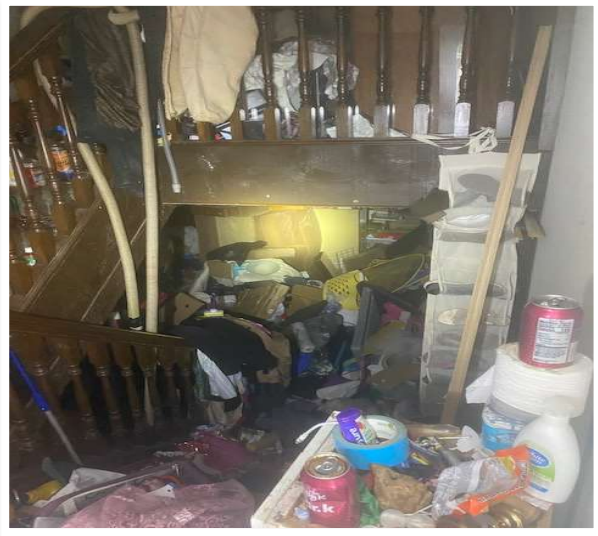
- 28 open cases
- 28 new cases
- 28 risk assessments

Katie Mundy is our Lead Case Manager and provides case management for children with elevated blood lead levels. She does this with:

- Coordination of blood lead tests.
- Education regarding lead poisoning and methods to treat.
- Appropriate referrals



## PUBLIC HEALTH COMPLAINTS



Pictures of homes that have been tagged Unfit for Human Habitation

Housing and property complaints filter through this program. Some of the problems addressed: mold, rodents, roaches, bed bugs, animal and human feces, meth lab clean up, surfacing sewage, and unfit for human habitation situations. We are called by other agencies, such as Child Protective Services, Adult Protective Services, City and County Building Inspection, City Environmental, City and County law enforcement, along with concerned citizens of Vigo County.

- 39 surfacing sewage complaints
- 9 unfit housing situations
- 9 animal/human feces complaints
- 10 bed bug complaints
- 14 mold complaints
- 51 pest/rodent complaints
- 4 trash complaints
- 19 non environmental complaints
- 2 no hot water complaints
- 64 retail food establishment complain



## ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH EXTRA'S



- New Station WTHI news story on tattoo inspections
- Virtual Food Protection Committee Meeting
- Virtual Tuesday Food Protection Trainings with Indiana Department of Health
- Attended 2 day workshop for grant writing with Purdue Extension
- Attended Pool School in Hendricks County
- Attended Indiana Department of Health Leadership Symposium
- Attended Food Managers Course at B&B Foods
- Attended and Hosted Indiana Environmental Health Association Quarterly Meeting
- Continued training with Mark Miller from Indiana Department of Health On-Site Sewage Program
- Participated in Tuesday Food Trainings with Indiana State Department of Health
- Participated in Foods 103 Training
- Participated in Lead Case Management Training
- Help with Vigo County Tire Amnesty
- Met with Downtown Terre Haute Farmer's Market for a Q&A
- Attended the Indiana Environmental Health Association Fall Conference
- Attended the Wastewater Management Committee Meeting
- Toured Terre Haute Casino
- Spoke with CEO Class at the Station
- Met with Indiana Department of Health Commissioner about Indiana First Funding
- Attended Food Inspector Training at Ivy Tech Indy
- Participated in NIMS training
- Responded to Fire at Wal-Mart and West Vigo High School
- Responded to Dollar Tree Applesauce Recall

## SOCIAL SERVICES DIVISION



Left to Right: Shonna Frye and Molly Isles (not pictured Larry Aynes)

The Social Services Division provides resources, address widespread health problems and social issues within our community. They work to prevent and intervene in health and social problems afflicting our community and populations at large. The staff assist those in recovery adjust to the everyday emotional and practical requirements of life, to keep up with treatment strategies and form family support groups. Our staff participate in our community and partner engagement for harm reduction for SUD, Narcan and harm reduction kit distribution. They walk side by side with individuals seeking recovery from substance use disorders and help others to create their own recovery plans, and develop recovery pathways. Recovery plans and other supports are customized, and build on each individual's strengths, needs, and recovery goals.



## VECTOR CONTROL DIVISION



Front row left to right: Mike Grayless, Logan Edwards and David Higgins  
Back row left to right: Kim Edwards, Tony Grayless and Warren Sweitzer

The primary goal of the Vector Control Division is to reduce the risk of disease and death from pathogens carried by animals and/or vectors. The Vector Control Division also repairs and maintains all Health Department vehicles and spraying equipment.

A "vector" is an agent capable of transmitting a pathogen from one organism to another. (I.e. mosquito, rodent). The Vector Control Division devotes its time primarily to:

1. Vector control
2. West Nile surveillance
3. Dead animal removal
4. Fleet maintenance and repairs





## MOSQUITO CONTROL

The spraying for adult mosquitoes in Vigo County was as diligent as the weather would allow in 2023. The adulticiding program consists of five ½ ton pickup trucks and four ATVs (equipped with ultra-low volume cold aerosol fog machines) to spray insecticides throughout the county, as well as the city of Terre Haute, for the control of adult mosquitoes. The ATV mounted ULV makes most sites accessible. All nine ultra-low volume-fogging machines must be certified for droplet size and calibrated for flow rate prior to each spraying season. Calibration is monitored daily throughout the spraying season. Adult mosquito control is accomplished using three insecticides, Bio-Mist 4+12, Kontrol 4-4, and Aqua Anvil.



**Mr. Chris Novak of Clarke Mosquito Control checking droplet size.**



**ATV mounted ULV machine**

All ULV units are fitted with GPS compatible "Smart Flow" systems. This enables Vector Control staff to preset and record calibration, time of spraying, flow rate and vehicle speed.

Vector Control staff prepares and updates 26 maps that are 40-45 miles of County and city roads. The 26 maps show the areas to treat and also areas that we do not treat, which we consider no spray zones. Some of the areas that are considered no spray zones might be areas with organic gardens, beekeepers, large bodies of water or persons who have requested no spraying be done in the area they live, either for health or personal reasons. The 26 maps are treated weekly, biweekly or monthly depending on adult mosquito population and weather conditions.



### MOSQUITO CONTROL MEASURES

Mosquito breeding grounds can be eliminated at home by removing unused

- OLD TIRES
- BY CLEARING CLOGGED GUTTERS
- REPAIRING LEAKS AROUND FAUCETS
- CHANGING WATER IN BIRD BATHS
- EMPTYING WATER FROM CONTAINERS
- SWAMPY AREAS AND TREE STUMPS



Vector Control employees spend an extended amount of time treating stagnant water for mosquito larvae. Several brands of insecticide targeting several species are employed to kill the larvae. One type of insecticide (Golden bear) can last for seven days in stagnant low area water, covering the surface of the water denying the mosquito larvae access to air. All "catch basins" or dry wells are treated with Altosid briquettes and Bactimas briquettes which lasts 30 or 150 days. Altosid Briquettes inhibit the growth of the larvae preventing them from becoming adults. Catch basins have been identified as one of many ideal habitats for the Vector (*Culex pipiens*), a mosquito, notoriously known for the transmission of West Nile. Culex mosquito larvae love the stagnant dirty water left behind from rain that doesn't soak into the ground but runs off into catch basins, retention ponds, and roadside ditches.



In 2023, over 1500 catch basins were treated. That number will continue to increase due to community growth. Parking lots and subdivisions will install retention ponds and or catch basins to contain water run off. Catch basins and larvaciding sites are mapped out using the County's GIS system. Larvae

samples are examined for identification of species to insure proper insecticide treatment.

The following table contains a list of the amount and types of insecticide used in Vigo County to control adult mosquitoes and larvae in 2023.

	<b>INSECTICIDE</b>	<b>AMOUNT USED</b>
55 Gallon Drum	Biomist 4 + 12	15 Drums
55 Gallon Drum	Kontrol	21 Drums
55 Gallon Drum	Aqua Anvil	5 Drums
220 Per Case	Altosid Briquettes (150 Day)	9 Cases
100 Per Case	Bactimas Briquets	16 Cases
3/4 Gallon	Talstar P	1/4 Gallon
400 per case	Altosid Briquets (30 Day)	1/4 Case



## WEST NILE VIRUS SURVEILLANCE

We use gravid traps made of alfalfa pellets mixed with water, which target gravid (pregnant) female mosquitoes seeking suitable sites for egg laying. These traps often utilize organic matter, like alfalfa pellets, to create an environment that attracts mosquitoes. The fermentation process releases odors that mimic conditions conducive to egg laying, and the dirty water serves as an attractive breeding site.

Gravid traps were set out at numerous locations throughout Vigo County with 2015 mosquitoes being collected between June and October 2023. Once the mosquitoes are collected they are separated into groups ranging in number from 5 to 100 and are then labeled as pools of mosquitoes, which are sent to the Indiana Department of Health for West Nile testing. A total of 91 pools were sent in for testing in 2023. The Indiana Department of Health reported ten positive pools for Vigo County. Vector control specialists will continue to set, maintain and collect mosquito pools for IDH West Nile Virus testing in the upcoming year.



Warren Sweitzer sorting mosquitoes



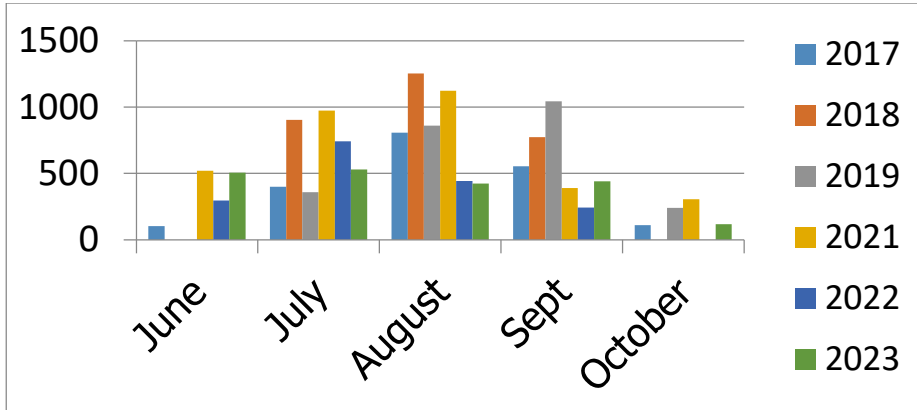
Gravid Trap

Mosquito borne disease prevention activities in 2023 included:

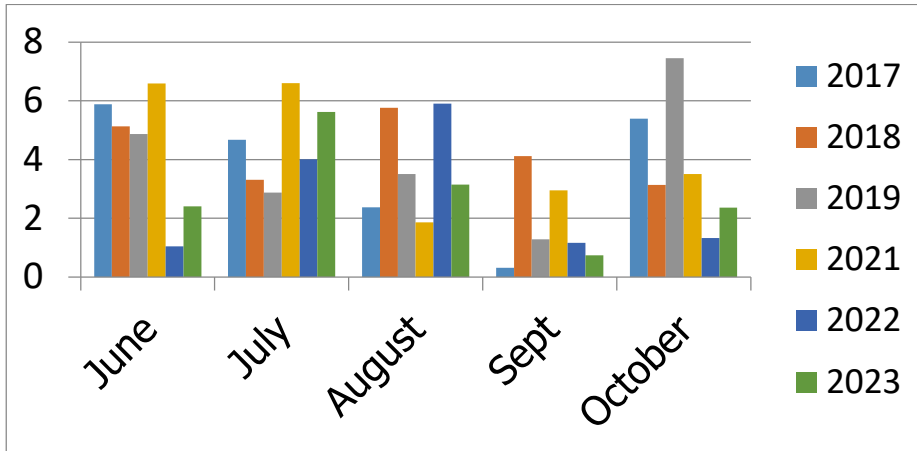
- Distributed 5400 "Skeeter Beater" coloring books to pre-school through 3<sup>rd</sup> grade elementary students on preventing and identifying prime breeding areas for mosquitoes.
- Worked with Home Owners (high grass, weeds, swimming pools, fishponds, standing water).
- Sent out Notice to Abate letters to all Vigo County cemetery caretakers.
- Continued to monitor home owners, tire retailers and salvage yards to ensure compliance with the Tire Storage Ordinance.



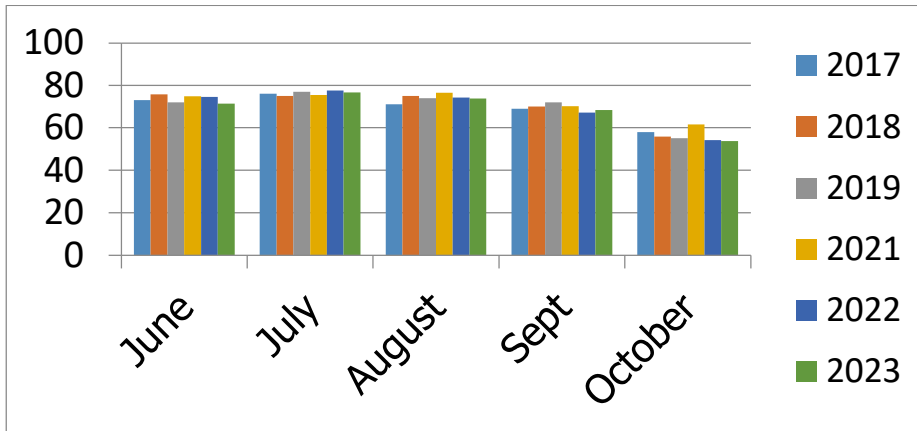
### TOTAL MOSQUITOES COLLECTED



### PRECIPITATION AMOUNTS



### AVERAGE TEMPERATURES



## 2024 MOSQUITO AND LARVAE CONTROL STRATEGIES

1. Intensify local culex and aedes mosquito larval control to prevent the emergence of adult mosquitoes that feed on birds and contribute to the virus amplification transmission cycle.
2. Continue active West Nile surveillance to determine the presence of new or expanding West Nile transmission. (Light traps-Adult mosquito testing)
3. Reinforce public education and outreach programs to reduce mosquito- breeding sites around homes.
4. Educate on personal protective measures (long sleeves, insect repellent) with the use of the media (TV, radio and newspapers)
5. Implement local mosquito control to reduce the number of virus infected mosquitoes, thus reducing the immediate risk to humans.
6. Monitor adult and larval mosquito control efforts to ensure that the local programs are effectively reducing mosquito densities and virus infection rates.
7. Conduct inspections of local tire retailers and junkyards for tire storage ordinance compliance.

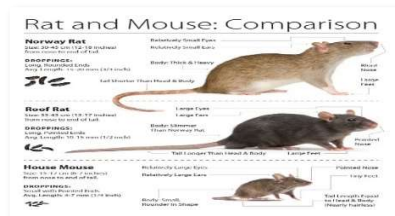
## REMOVAL OF DECEASED ANIMALS

In 2023 a total of 507 deceased animals were removed from private properties as well as city and county roadways and taken to the landfill, with 181 of them being deer.

## RODENT

Rodents (i.e. rats, mice) are another source of disease transmission. Rodents must have adequate food, shelter, and water in order to survive. For these reasons, a large majority of rodent complaints are located within the city of Terre Haute.

A vector control specialist investigates complaints about rodents and proceeds to make recommendations to the property owner on findings and rodent control (i.e. removal of debris, animal feces). In some cases, the vector control specialist may set out bait and remove dead rodents, but the majority of the extermination is usually the responsibility of the property owner. A vector control specialist will continue to make follow up inspections to insure the property owner is correctly handling the problem.



## RABIES

In 2023 Vector Control staff sent 22 bats and one opossum to the IDH for rabies testing. All results were negative.



## VEHICLE MAINTENANCE

During the winter months the Vector Control Division is busy with repairing, cleaning and inspection of all vehicles and equipment. All ULV spray units must be cleaned and broken down during the winter months, checked, repaired and parts replaced as needed. Along with routine maintenance, all trucks and cars are thoroughly inspected and repaired. All Health Department vehicles and equipment have routine maintenance throughout the year.

## TIRE CLEAN-UP PROGRAM

In 2023 Vigo County Health Department employees removed discarded tires from the alleys and streets of Terre Haute and surrounding communities. A total of 4780 tires plus 24 oversized tires, filling five semi-trailers, were collected. Residents that had tires stored outside were given information on our Tire Storage Ordinance informing them that the tires must be stored inside or removed from the property.



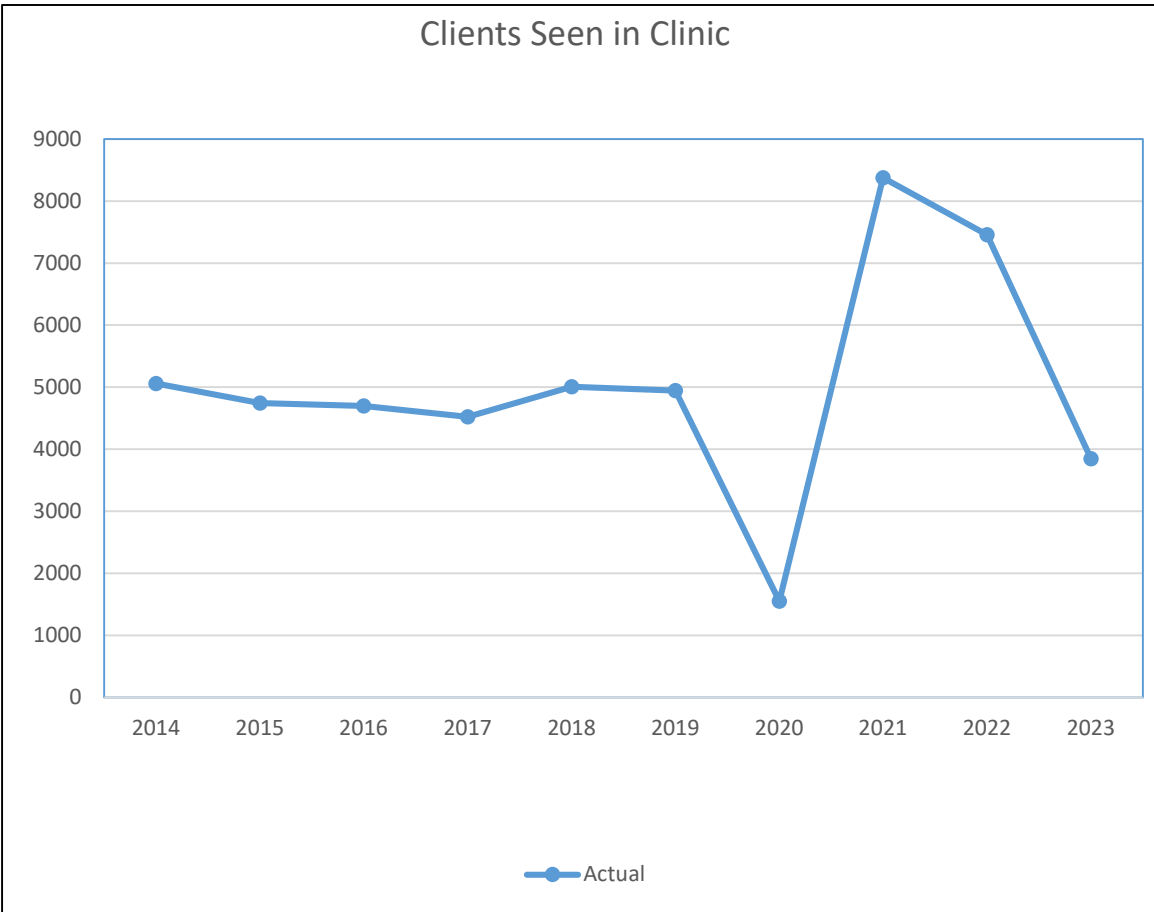
## HEALTH CLINIC DIVISION



Left to right: Libby O’Pell, Jane Keyes, Dolly Moss, Dr, Brown, Teresa Bectel, Chelsea Willis and Robin Maurer

In 2023, a Director of Nursing, two part-time Registered Nurses, a full-time Administrative Assistant, a full-time Immunization Registry clerk, a part-time Lead Case Manager, and a part-time Insurance and Billing Clerk provided staffing for the clinic. In addition, Dr. Catherine Brown, a pediatrician, staffed our weekly Well Child Clinics. The Health Department Clinic provides services to both children and adults for a nominal fee or free of charge.





Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, there have been major shifts over recent years in the number of clients visiting the VCHD Clinic by year. In 2020, when the pandemic first started and the clinic had to be closed for a period of time, client visits dropped below 2,000 which was less than half of the longer-term average. In 2021, client visits increased dramatically to 8,375 due to the significant number of COVID vaccinations that were given, even though the clinic had to operate in the old Sears building and behind Regional Hospital during different periods of time between February and April of 2021. Client visits came down slightly in 2022 to 7,456, which was still well above the longer-term average due to a continued high number of COVID vaccinations. The clinic returned to some normalcy in 2023 with a total number of patients seen of 3,847.

### **COVID-19 PANDEMIC**

The VCHD Clinic continued to be actively involved in supporting the COVID-19 vaccination needs of the community during 2023. Vaccines were continually offered at the clinic and off-site clinics were held. The pandemic came to an end in 2023 causing a shift in the COVID vaccines. Vaccines were no longer funded by the Federal Government which means that insurance companies started to cover them instead. Most private insurance companies now cover the vaccine at no cost to the patient. May 11<sup>th</sup>, 2023 marked the end of free COVID vaccines.



## **WELL-CHILD PROGRAM/SPORTS PHYSICALS/ KINDERGARTEN PHYSICALS**

The Well-Child Program serves children from birth to 18 years of age. In 2023, the VCHD Clinic continued abridged Well-Child Clinics on Wednesdays then shifted to Fridays. Dr. Brown provided well-child physicals, sports physicals, kindergarten physicals, and Head Start physicals. Immunization letters were sent out by the Vigo County School Corporation during the third quarter of 2023. The VCHD Clinic continues to administer school-required immunizations along with physicals, vision screenings, and hearing tests.

## **VACCINE FOR CHILDREN PROGRAM/PRIVATE PAY VACCINES**

The VCHD Clinic continues to be a provider enrolled in the Vaccines for Children program and provides childhood immunizations to those who qualify. Since some area pediatricians do not provide immunizations to their patients, the VCHD helps to fill that gap by immunizing those children. Most major insurance is accepted at the VCHD through the help of VaxCare.

## **ADULT VACCINE PROGRAM/ADULT WELL PHYSICALS**

The Adult Stay-Well Program was continued by Dr. Brown who provided adult physicals including college students, daycare employees, and foster care parents for a nominal fee. The VCHD is enrolled in the Vaccines for Adults program to provide immunizations for adults with no insurance, or insurance that does not cover vaccines.

## **COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT**

Immunizations are an important daily function of the nurses at the Vigo County Health Department. The VCHD nurses serve as clinical preceptors for nursing students from Indiana State University, Ivy Tech Community College, and Saint Mary-of-the-Woods College. VCHD nurses also collaborate with the medical students from the Indiana University School of Medicine Terre Haute campus.

- VCHD Clinic and the Health Educator have been working on reaching out to daycares to offer vaccines clinics and lead testing at the daycare.
- Lead testing was performed at Vigo County Head Start and Early Head Start.
- TB testing was performed at Vigo County Head Start.
- VCHD Clinic attended the Union Hospital Community Baby Shower to provide expecting parents and grandparents with information on vaccines and/or to update their TDaP vaccines on site.
- VCHD partnered with MDWise for a *Back on Track Event*. This event was aimed towards getting children vaccination a total of 88 children with a grand total of 190 vaccines given that day. Walk-In lead testing was held during National Lead Week.

## **EMPLOYEE VACCINES**

The VCHD carries vaccines for the full-time employees of the county. These vaccines include Influenza, Hepatitis A, and Hepatitis B. The vaccines are offered free of charge.

## **EDUCATION**

Education is an important aspect to evidence-based care. Due to restrictions of the COVID-19 pandemic, some in-person training and educational courses were completed online via webinars and Zoom meetings, with most of the information centered on the pandemic. VCHD staff participated in meetings presented by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Indiana Department of Health (IDOH). Public Health Nurse's conference was attended by all nursing staff. Several zoom meetings were attended, as well as, several IDOH trainings on site. Billing Specialist and Director of Nursing attended a Vaxcare meeting in Seymour, IN.

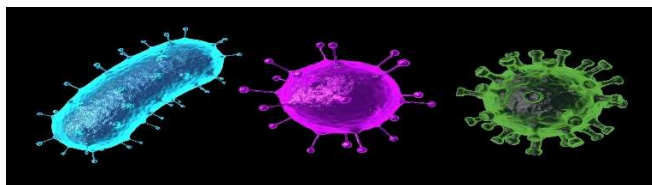
## **LEAD SCREENING**

On July 1, 2022, the new Emergency Rule, temporarily amending 410 IAC 29 became effective. This Emergency Rule updated definitions and other important guidelines used for lead case management, including lowering the standard for an elevated blood level from 10 ug/dL to 3.5 ug/dL, and the benchmark for beginning case management services from 10 ug/dL to 5 ug/dL.

In 2023, 127 children were screened for lead exposure by the Vigo County Health Department Clinic. The VCHD managed an average of 45 open cases in 2023 and participated in 27 home investigations, up significantly from only 11 in 2022.

## **EPIDEMIOLOGY AND COMMUNICABLE DISEASE**

Indiana Code 16-41-2-1 requires local health departments to investigate and report communicable diseases listed in the Indiana State Department of Health Communicable Disease Reporting Rule. Once investigations are completed, they are entered into the computerized database known as the Indiana National Electronic Disease Surveillance System (NBS). VCHD Clinic nurses investigated and reported many communicable disease cases once again in 2023. Chronic Hepatitis C continued to be the most prevalent communicable disease investigated by the VCHC in 2023.



Condition	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Animal Bites	167	10	3	16	70	155
Campylobacteriosis	14	19	7	12	5	5
Carbapenemase-producing carbapenemase-resistant enterobacteriaceae (CP-CRE)	36	7	4	3	8	2
Cryptosporidiosis	0	0	0	0	0	1
Giardiasis	0	0	2	2	4	3
Haemophilus influenza, invasive			1	4	0	2
Hepatitis A, Acute	2	46	6	0	0	0
Hepatitis B, Acute/Chronic			33	18	14	15
Hepatitis C	182	272	251	173	141	114
Hepatitis E			1	1	0	0
Histoplasmosis	4	0	3	8	4	3
Legionellosis			1	1	2	0
Condition	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Lyme Disease	1	2	6	5	5	4
Multisystem Inflammatory Syndrome (MIS)			1	0	0	0
Mumps			1	0	0	0
Pertussis			1	2	8	3
Salmonellosis, excluding S. typhi and S. paratyphi			7	6	8	14
Shiga toxin-producing Escherichia coli (STEC)			1	1	1	0
Streptococcus A	5	2	8	1	3	6
Streptococcus Pneumoniae	16	24		12	16	9
Varicella (Chickenpox)			8	1	1	0

\*This table includes cases that are confirmed, probable, suspect, unknown, and determined to not be a case. Investigation must be initiated in order to make a final determination. Not publicly reported if total is less than 5. Hepatitis C count does includes USP Terre Haute Federal Prison for 2023.

## **TUBERCULOSIS CASE MANAGEMENT AND TESTING**

Tuberculosis (TB) control and case management by Local Health Departments is a mandated task under the Indiana Code 410 IAC 1-2.3-106.

This includes:

- Investigating positive skin tests
- Collection of sputum samples for evaluation by the ISDOH lab
- Providing medication for both active and latent TB cases
- Home visits for medication administration
- Evaluation and testing for contacts of the infected patient
- Communication with the patient's physician
- Patient education.

In 2023, 0 active TB cases, were managed by the VCHD Clinic. The VCHD Clinic continued to provide TB skin testing on a walk-in basis on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays for the community for a nominal charge. 893 TB skin tests were administered in 2023, which was up from 822 in 2022.



## **INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH IMMUNIZATION GRANT**

A grant that was awarded to the Vigo County Health Department of Nursing Division by the Indiana State Immunization Division in 2023 for \$129,800 will run out in June 2024. Funds from this grant were used in various ways to increase immunization rates and promote services offered at the health department clinic. The VCHD Clinic was able to purchase various supplies and equipment for the health department clinic. Since the immunization grant was started in 2014, immunization rates in Vigo County have increased from 28% to 72% in 2020; there was a slight drop in 2021 due to the pandemic dropping the rate to 62%. A rate of 63% was reached in 2022. Unfortunately, the numbers for 2023 aren't finalized yet. The grant funded the VCHD Clinic's ability to accept most private insurances. A total of 873 private doses were administered in 2023.



# VITAL STATISTICS



Left to Right: Brooke Foltz, Supervisor Loretta Nicoson and Brandie Latham

People visit Vital Statistics for many reasons. They need to do a paternity to put the father's name on a child's birth record. They need to do an Affidavit of Amendment to correct their birth record. People need a birth certificate for sports, driver's license, kindergarten roundup, health insurance, travel and many more things. Just about everything you do you need a birth certificate. This will be more so in years to come. They need a death certificate in order to obtain benefits.



Registrar Maddie Lindsey

## **2023 OVERVIEW**

BIRTHS IN WEDLOCK	875
BIRTHS OUT OF WEDLOCK	1,006
DEATHS REPORTED	1,555
FETAL DEATH REPORTED	12
CORONER SIGNED	230
PATERNITY AFFIDAVIT	51
LEGAL NAME CHANGE	35
GENEALOGY SEARCHES	21
LINKAGE/DEATH TO BIRTH	477
GENDER CHANGE	2
CORRECTIONS	1,596

## **CERTIFICATES ISSUED**

BIRTH	7,838
DEATH	10,254
CERTIFICATES AT NO CHARGE	482

### **THE VITAL RECORDS DIVISION'S OBJECTIVE IS TWO-FOLD:**

- Carry out uniform procedures
- Maintain and protect the integrity of the Vital Records Systems

### **THE DIVISION HAS THE RESPONSIBILITY TO:**

- Maintain a system that accurately records all births, deaths and fetal deaths
- Efficiently issue certified copies of records
- Issue provisional notification of death-burial transit permits
- Process paternitys when they come to us from the courts
- Type and process paternitys when people schedule appointments to come in to our office
- Process adoptions
- Type affidavits of amendment and schedule appointments for people to make corrections to their birth record
- Work with funeral homes in filing death certificates
- Verify birth records for the Military, Social Security and Division of Family and Children
- Assist citizens who wish to inspect permanent birth and death records (adoption records are NOT available to view.)

# VIGO COUNTY EMPLOYEE'S VOLUNTEERING

## CENTRAL INDIANA STORM DAMAGE APRIL 1, 2023

Severe weather hit Indiana with an F1 tornado and turned deadly in Sullivan County. The storm caused three deaths and damaged more than 150 homes and buildings in Sullivan with a total of 200 across the county. Vigo County government employees volunteered to help out their sister county just south of us.



Vigo County Commissioner Mark Clinkenbeard lead a group of our county employees in the clean-up of the tornado debris.



Tiffany Kerr, VCHD



Tornado Damage

*THE END*



*SEE YOU NEXT  
YEAR!*